

XIV.—BIRDS EATING BUTTERFLIES.

I have been up in Nepal (Katmandu) for the last month and while there an incident occurred which might be worth recording in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. I visited a Mr. and Mrs. Kilburne who have a house with a garden in the town of Katmandu and Mrs. K. said that a pair of Paradise Flycatchers lived in the garden having made a nest in the same tree for some years. They arrived each year about 30th March, and a friend of hers who had been observing these birds in Calcutta had told her that they arrived in Calcutta on the same date. I said I should like to see them, and after about one minute the birds appeared; the hen with some material in her mouth flew to the nesting tree. This was about 24th April. There were several 'cabbage white' butterflies flying about the garden and one of the birds seized one on the wing and carried it to a perch and there ate it—the wings, which I enclose, fell to the ground. The birds then made several attempts to catch another butterfly. I know birds do eat butterflies—I wrote a letter in 1930 or thereabouts to the *Journal* relating that I had seen the red-legged Falconet catch and eat a butterfly, but the extraordinary part about this incident is that the Paradise Flycatcher carried the butterfly to its perch, not into beak but in its feet like a kite. I was not the only one who saw this; there were several of us in the garden and they all saw it, but it was all done so quickly no one could say whether the butterfly was caught by the bird's beak and transferred to the feet or whether it was caught by the feet of the bird—the white wings showed up vividly under the body of the bird as it flew to the perch.

S. F. HOPWOOD, I.F.S.

C/o MESSRS. THOS. COOK & SON, LTD.,
PHAYRE STREET, RANGOON,
April, 30 1940.

[In the December 1939 issue of the *Journal* (vol. xli, No. 2, p. 445) we published a note by Mr. Hubback on the Paradise Flycatcher eating butterflies: a discussion on birds eating butterflies will be found in the editorial comment to a note on the Red-legged Falconet (*Microhierax eutolmus*) hawking butterflies contributed to the *Journal* by Mr. S. F. Hopwood (vol. xxxi, p. 826). Eds.]

XV.—THE MANY BANDED KRAIT (*BUNGARUS MULTICINCTUS*) IN BURMA.

In his 'Poisonous Snakes of India' Wall remarks that this snake is rare in Burma and that only one specimen has been recorded, somewhat dubiously, from Rangoon.

I was therefore very interested when Mr. L. C. Glass showed me a specimen killed in his garden in Rangoon on May 21st. He says two were seen, but the larger one got away.

The specimen killed had 31 white stripes on the body and 10 stripes on the tail, and was about 2' 4" in length.

RANGOON,
May 28, 1940.

J. A. M. SYMNS.

XVI.—EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF THE BROWN WHIP SNAKE (*DRYOPHIS PULVERULENTUS* JAN.)

Dryophis pulverulentus has so far been recorded from Ceylon and the Anamallai Hills, South India [*vide Fauna British India* (Reptilia) p. 371, 1st Ed.]. While on a visit to Karwar, N. Kanara, I secured a male on the 14th September 1940. It measured 53 inches. This, however, is not the first record of this species from Karwar. There is a specimen in the Society's collection labelled 'Karwar' and another, 'Kanara'. Both are without the names of the donors and were collected in 1907. There are other specimens from, Castle Rock (*P. Gerhardt*, 1907); Nelliampatty Hills, S. India (*A. M. Kinlock*, Nov. 1911); Ceylon (*E. E. Green*); and, Matugama, Ceylon (*F. Wall*). Thus it is clear that *D. pulverulentus* is a lot more widespread than originally recorded.

My specimen is of interest as there are some slight differences exhibited by it when compared with the details given in the *Fauna*. In the first place there is a small ovate oblong scale bounded by the internasal, praefrontal and 2nd upper labial. Secondly, the number of ventrals is 195 as against 194 (maximum) mentioned in the *Fauna*—a very minor difference, indeed. Lastly there are 199 subcaudals as against 173 (maximum). These are all points of minor importance, but, nevertheless, I think, worth recording.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
BOMBAY,
September 21, 1940.

C. McCANN.

XVII.—FROG EATING A SNAKE.

I was glad to read Mr. Charrington's note on 'Snake attacked by Frogs' in the Bombay Natural History Society's *Journal* Vol. xli, No. 3, because I witnessed a similar incident a few years ago. It was during the monsoon when I was returning from a dinner party and had just entered my gate, when in the headlights of my car I caught sight of a large frog (*Rana tigrina*) and a snake close to each other on the lawn. I stopped the car keeping the headlights on the frog and the snake, and got down to see what would happen. In a few minutes the frog hopped closer and leaped onto the snake taking hold of it by the neck. The snake which was only 10 to 12 inches long made frantic efforts